

14 JOHN ROTHGAL: Hi, I'm John Rothgal and I'm 1  
15 a resident of Darwin. And most people know where  
16 Darwin is but it's six miles off 190 on the way to  
17 Death Valley. It's about 40 miles from the southwest  
18 of Lone Pine. So it's like 35 people in Darwin. And  
19 we don't have a HazMat team. We don't even have a  
20 volunteer fire department.

21 I think I share all the concerns that people  
22 who are really interested in the possibility of  
23 leaks. And I think there's a lot of things said that  
24 people haven't -- one thing people have never talked  
25 about is fast breeder reactors. I don't hear much  
1 people talking about that.

2 I have a degree in physics and I graduated  
3 in 1967 in Virginia Tech, and we had a nuclear  
4 reactor in the basement and we had no problems with  
5 that. We had extremely highly trained people taking  
6 care of everything. We had detectors in case there  
7 was a leak.

8 So I think that there's need to be a plan.  
9 There needs to be a plan for in case there's leaks.  
10 There needs to be detectors and there needs to be  
11 information like in northern Europe after Chernobyl,  
12 you know, you couldn't get any iodine, because if you  
13 take iodine and fill your thyroid with natural  
14 iodine, and you get radioactive iodine, it will just  
15 pass through the body. So you should do simple  
16 things like a supply of natural iodine for people in

17 case of emergencies.

18 And fast breeder reactors have been  
19 developed now. When I went to school, they were just  
20 a theory. But fast breeder reactors actually burn up  
21 the nuclear waste and they don't create any nuclear  
22 waste. It's a different type of reaction. It's a  
23 fast neutron reaction instead of a slow neutron  
24 reaction.

25 So that's something that I've never heard  
1 about on the national news, and I know that people  
2 say it's quite expensive, but actually fast breeder  
3 reactors are actually safer because if they overheat,  
4 they expand and they stop. They die themselves.  
5 Their reaction dies. So it's actually safer and they  
6 don't create waste and they can actually burn up the  
7 old waste.

So I don't know how those are more expensive  
9 if you consider all that we're going through to deal  
10 with this waste. And I know there's like so many  
11 people in government and corporations and stuff that  
12 have so much invested in this Yucca Mountain  
13 repository, and with all the problems of  
14 transportation and safety and they are going on all  
15 these assumptions that there aren't going to be any  
16 leaks, but there are going to be leaks, just like  
17 everybody has mentioned.

18 So I really appreciate that the State is  
19 here. I really appreciate what the, you know,  
20 because I really want the state of California and the

21 county of Inyo County, I trust those guys more to  
22 protect me than I do the Department of Energy or the  
23 federal government. And I would really like to see,  
24 if this does go through, somehow set up so that Inyo  
25 County has the resources to protect its citizens.]

1 And thank you very much.